

REMARKS

The present application is directed to methods of cloning genes using replication-deficient baculovirus vectors. Claims 27-34 are pending.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)

The Examiner maintains claim rejections that she raised in the previous Office Action. Claims 27-30 are rejected for lack of novelty under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,911,206 to Campos et al. ("Campos") as evidenced by Kool et al., Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences, v. 91, pp. 11212-11216 (1994). Claims 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Campos and in view of Merrington et al., Virology, v. 217, pp. 338-348 (1996).

In the section "Response to Arguments" beginning on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Applicants have not provided evidence that the vectors disclosed in Campos were not circular. Applicants provided analysis of Campos in the previous Response. In this Response, Applicants re-assert the previously submitted arguments and provide in their support a Declaration of Robert David Possee, Ph. D., under 37 C.F.R. §1.132, an expert in the field of the present application ("Declaration").

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this is a complete response to the Final Office Action mailed September 10, 2007. No additional fees are believed due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 11-0855. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are now in condition for allowance and request that the application be passed to issuance. If the Examiner believes that any informalities that may be corrected by Examiner's amendment remain in the case, or if there are any other issues which can be resolved by a telephone interview, a telephone call to the undersigned agent at (404) 815-6102 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

/elena s. polovnikova/

Elena S. Polovnikova, Ph.D.
Patent Agent
Reg. No. 52,130

KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
1100 Peachtree Street
Suite 2800
Atlanta, GA 30309-4530
Phone: (404) 745-2470
Fax: (404) 815-6555
Attorney Docket: 46309-257438